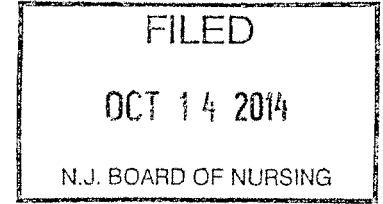


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	Administrative Action
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
KELLY D. WALSTON, R.N.	:	OF LICENSE
LICENSE # NO 12393200	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED	:	
NURSE (R.N.) IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

1. Respondent, Kelly D. Walston, is the holder of License No. NO 12393200 and is a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey.

2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board which she signed on or about March 26, 2013. (Exhibit A) The agreement required respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), undergo evaluation and monitoring, agree to follow recommendations by RAMP for further treatment, and to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit A, ¶¶ 2, 6, and 10) The agreement was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. In the event that the Board received reliable information that respondent had acted in violation of the RAMP contract and/or the agreement, the agreement was no longer to remain confidential.

3. In a communication dated June 10, 2014, Case Manager Jillian Scott of RAMP advised the Board that respondent was noncompliant with her RAMP monitoring agreement, in that she had a positive drug screen for alcohol on May 20, 2014, and subsequently failed to call in on a number of occasions, as required by the monitoring agreement, did not attend a scheduled drug screening in June of 2014, and did not attend several peer support group meetings. She also failed to respond to RAMP efforts to contact her (Exhibit B)

4. On or about July 29, 2014, a letter issued by overnight and regular mail to respondent at her address of

record, advising respondent that the Board had received credible information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and advising her to forward within five days any proof that she was currently in compliance with RAMP. (Exhibit C)

5. The overnight mailing was delivered on July 30, 2014. (Exhibit C) No response has been received to date.

7. A certification from RAMP's director dated October 7, 2014 indicated that Ms. Walston had a positive urine drug screen for alcohol on May 20, 2014, failed to call in to see whether she was scheduled for screening on May 30, 2014, June 1, 2014, June 3, 2014, June 5, 2014 and June 6, 2014, and ceased calling in entirely to see whether she was scheduled for screening on June 8, 2014. Ms. Walston did not appear for a scheduled urine drug screen on June 6, 2014 and June 12, 2014, and she ceased attending weekly support group meetings on May 29, 2014. Ms. Walston has entirely ceased participation in RAMP since June of 2014. (Exhibit D)

8. The private letter agreement signed by respondent, which by its terms has the force and effect of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, provided for automatic suspension of respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that respondent has

violated any term of the private letter agreement. (Exhibit A, ¶13)

9. The Board has received reliable information indicating that respondent violated the terms of the private letter agreement, as indicated above.

Accordingly,

IT IS on this 14th day of October, 2014

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for her violation of the private letter agreement, which is deemed a violation of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, upon notice, request a hearing on the sole issue of whether respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement.

3. In the event that respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without respondent's demonstrating that she is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement and

with any agreement with RAMP, and is fit and competent to practice nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Patricia Murphy PhD APN*
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C
Board President